

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**MEMORANDUM AND ORDER**

**HERNDON, District Judge:**

This action is before the Court to rule on Plaintiff’s motion to reconsider the Court’s order referring the action to a magistrate judge and dismissing some defendants from the action (Doc. 9). Technically, a “Motion to Reconsider” does not exist under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Seventh Circuit has held, however, that a motion challenging the merits of a district court order will automatically be considered as having been filed pursuant to Rule 59(e) or Rule 60(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. *See, e.g., Mares v. Busby*, 34 F.3d 533, 535 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1994); *United States v. Deutsch*, 981 F.2d 299, 300 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1992). As noted in *Deutsch*, “in cases where it is unclear whether a motion challenging a judgment on the merits is made under Rule 59(e) or Rule 60(b),” the date of service will determine how the motion will be treated. Thus, ““if the motion is served within ten days of the rendition of judgment, the motion falls under Rule 59(e); if it is served after that time, it falls under Rule 60(b).”” *Id.* (citations omitted).

The challenged order was entered in this action on July 19, 2006, and the instant motion was filed on August 4, 2006. Giving the Plaintiff the benefit of the doubt regarding mailing, the Court

finds that the motion was filed within the 10-day period. *See FED.R.CIV.P. 59(e).* Therefore, under *Deutsch*, the Court will construe the motion as a motion to alter or amend judgment, filed pursuant to Rule 59(e), which may only be granted if a movant shows there was mistake of law or fact or presents newly discovered evidence that could not have been discovered previously. *Matter of Prince*, 85 F.3d 314 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1996), *reh'g and suggestion for reh'g en banc denied, cert. denied* 117 S.Ct. 608; *Deutsch v. Burlington Northern R. Co.*, 983 F.2d 741 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1993).

Upon review of the record, the Court remains persuaded that its ruling dismissing Defendants Elyea, Walker, and Frey was correct. Therefore, the instant motion is **DENIED**.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**DATED: August 15, 2006**

/s/ David RHerndon  
**DISTRICT JUDGE**